

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

D.C. 9/28

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name TWIN TOWER SANCTUARY
other names/site number OLD SANCTUARY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2. Location

street & number 9967 West 144th Street
city, town Orland Park
state Illinois code IL county Cook code 093 zip code 60462

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [ ] public-local, [ ] public-State, [ ] public-Federal
Category of Property: [X] building(s), [ ] district, [ ] site, [ ] structure, [ ] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing buildings 1, Noncontributing sites 0, structures 0, objects 0, Total 1
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for such properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements of 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
State or Federal agency and bureau: [ ]

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official: [ ]
State or Federal agency and bureau: [ ]

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
[ ] entered in the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain): [ ]

Signature of the Director Date of Action

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Religious Structure  
Social meeting hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN, Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Wood, weatherboard  
roof Asphalt  
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Twin Tower Sanctuary of the United Methodist Church is located on the southeast corner of 144th Street and West Avenue, Orland Park, Cook County, Illinois. The two story detached wood clapboard building measures 30 feet by 62 feet and stands in its original location in the middle of the Old Orland Area. To the immediate west of the building is the Sanctuary of the United Methodist Church built in 1961. Ten feet to the south of the building is the new wing of the United Methodist Church built in 1988.

Constructed in 1898, the rectangular Queen Anne structure features two hexagonal towers on opposite corners of the north facade. Though of the same shape, the two towers are of different heights. The northwest tower is three levels high, the top two levels are covered with fishscale and diamond cut shingles. The east tower is two levels high with diamond cut shingles on the top level. The roofs of both towers are hexagonal and bell shaped. In the center of the north facade between the two towers is a circular window with cloverleaf muntins on the second level. On the first level was twin arched windows. All four facades are of clapboard. The west side has four double hung Gothic arched windows with translucent stained glass. The east facade has five. The south facade is plain and at one time contained an exterior brick chimney.

As built in 1898, the interior of the church was a large rectangular space with truncated gambrel ceiling supported by wooden truss work. At the south end of the space was a raised chancel area. The space was finished in lathe and plaster with wood wainscoting. The plaster was decorated with stenciled floral patterns. Entrance was through double doors set in the corners of each corner tower. Heat was supplied by central stoves. Lighting was by several kerosene chandeliers. The windows at this time were rectangular and double hung of clear glass. The wood trim was of an unusual design in which the stiles rose several inches higher than the top rail.

In 1918, the church was raised to allow installation of a central heating plant. The chimney was located at the south end. This location for the heating plant is in use today. The new basement was made of textured concrete block and became an important social addition to the community. The walls of the nave were completely covered with pressed steel in a Victorian running floral pattern. The ceiling was covered with pressed steel in a Sullivanesque design consisting of six individual patterns which still exist. This design is similar to that of the Guaranty Building in New York by Louis Sullivan. At the time it represented an important acknowledgement of Sullivanesque as a legitimate style says Tim Samuelson.

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Twin Tower Sanctuary

Whether Louis Sullivan personally designed the patterns is being researched. Tim Samuelson, national expert on the works of Louis Sullivan, states this ceiling is one of two of which he is aware in the entire country. Of the two Sullivanesque tin ceilings he is aware of, this is the largest, most elaborate and in the best condition. At this time, the kerosene lamps were changed to gas. In 1923, the gas lamps were changed to electric with stained glass chandeliers which are still in use today.

No further work was done until 1940 when the tower entrances were closed and a central stairway in the north facade was built. The stairway was extended beyond the north wall and a small rectangular vestibule with gable roof was built replacing the twin arched windows which exists today. The corner stairs through the towers were removed. At this time, a small balcony was added to the north end of the interior space. In an attempt to modernize the interior and improve acoustics, cellotax-type fibre board tiles were installed throughout the interior of the sanctuary, completely covering the pressed steel. A Gothic arch was added from wall to wall over the chancel area and two small rooms built behind it. The windows were changed to include Gothic arches in the top right, the clear glass was removed and replaced with white and brown stained glass to match that in the electric chandeliers which is what survives to this day.

In 1961, to accommodate an expanded congregation, a new sanctuary was built to the immediate west of the twin towers. The parsonage which had been located there was moved to the south end of the twin towers, a connecting door was cut, and both buildings were given over to office and instructional use.

In 1987, to accommodate a new wing to the 1961 sanctuary, the parsonage was razed and the connecting door was shut.

Restoration began in the summer of 1987. The building was cleaned and the cellotax removed. The building will be renovated to its period of significance of 1918 allowing for modern conveniences.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Area of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

N/A

Significant Dates

1898

1918

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bennet, William Arthur

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Twin Tower Sanctuary of the United Methodist Church qualifies to be on the National Register as a locally significant property because it meets National Register Criterion C and Criteria Consideration A, deriving primary significance from its architecture. The Twin Tower Sanctuary served the community with its two sister churches and served a broader population than most Methodists through its use as a theater and Masonic hall. As the largest building in Orland Park between 1898 and 1945, it also occupied a position of local significance as a landmark. The unusual Queen Anne building is the most important example of the style in the Village. Further, the discovery of a rare Sullivan-esque pressed tin ceiling make the building the only example of Sullivan-esque architecture in the Village.

By legal agreement, the Methodist Church has transferred responsibility of the building to an independent group, the Old Orland Heritage Foundation. Though the Methodist Church will retain ownership, the building will be used as a rental hall and community cultural center.

The Village of Orland Park was incorporated in 1892, a small town which grew up around a depot of the Wabash, St. Louis and Pacific Railroad. At the time, no church building stood within the Village boundaries, though three major faiths (Catholic, Lutheran and Methodist) were represented. The Methodists were the largest and most influential group including Senator John Humphrey, founder of the Village and its first mayor, along with Dr. Schussler and his son Walter who were the second and third mayors and also Methodists. The first two stores in Orland Park were owned by Charles Loebe and Tom Cooper who were also Methodists.

Between 1868 and 1898, the Methodists worshipped at two small churches, one a mile southeast of town and another several miles west of town. Methodist circuit riders came from Chicago to conduct services at each location and then at various homes in Orland Park later in the evening. In 1897, work began on a church building which was dedicated on June 21, 1898. Many of those contributing toward the cost of construction were not church members, but shared with the congregation a vision of what the church would do for the town.

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Twin Tower Sanctuary

The building was initiated by Pastor Kitchen who hired architect William Arthur Bennet. Bennet was to achieve recognition in the 1910's for his work in the Prairie style by National Builder Magazine and Carpentry and Building Magazine. Pastor Kitchen never saw his building completed. During a particularly inspired sermon, he died of apoplexy.

By 1916, both outlying Methodist congregations had sold their buildings and joined the Orland congregation, swelling membership to 161 by 1923, making it the largest church in the area. In 1918, the Methodist church building was raised several feet to allow for construction of a basement. The significance of the basement cannot be overlooked, because in addition to serving the spiritual needs of the congregation, the church was a social center in an era preceding many modern conveniences. Turkey suppers and ladies bazaars were real "events."

In addition to serving as a meeting hall for the congregation and supplying much needed social events, the building also served as the Village's first movie theater. In the 1920's, silent films were shown to the community at large. In the 1930's, 40's and 50's, the building was used regularly by the Masons. They not only used the building but also left their symbolic dividers and sunburst symbols on window hardware and other pieces.

The distinctive twin tower configuration has served the area as a landmark since it was built. This has led to its representation in numerous calendars, murals, postcards and other works. No such evidence of the Catholic or Lutheran churches has been found.

No building in Orland Park is as large or ornate as the Twin Tower Sanctuary. There are a few other Queen Anne structures but they are more modest in size and ornament. The Queen Anne style is a varied style characterized by asymmetrical composition such as is shown by the different heights of the towers. The use of turrets or towers is a particularly Queen Anne feature as is the use of fishscale shingles. The style uses a number of features from the Eastlake style, in this case the use of scroll brackets on the gables of each tower. The use of double doors at the corners of each tower is also a Queen Anne feature. The exuberant display of the Queen Anne style is more apparent here than in any other building in Orland Park.

Of all the buildings in the Old Orland area, the Twin Tower Sanctuary is outstanding in its architectural contribution. This building has contributed to the development of Orland Park. With the discovery of a rare Sullivan-esque style metal ceiling, the building takes on regional and possibly even national importance. The Twin Tower Sanctuary deserves to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

1. Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the Orland Park Methodist Church, pamphlet, Methodist Church, Orland Park, Illinois, June 24, 1923.
2. Conversation with Ralph L. Agate, on April 29, 1979, by Joyce Lahti, Orland Park Historical Society.
3. Conversation with Stewart Loebe, 1976 by Joyce Lahti, Orland Park Historical Society.
4. Conversation with Stewart Loebe, on October 24, 1986 by Joyce Lahti, Orland Park Historical Society.
5. Historical Record of the Orland Park Methodist Church, entry by Pastor Harry E. Sweitzer, October 3, 1898.
6. William Arthur Bennet, National Builder, July, 1914, p. 35, 36, 38 & 40.
7. William Arthur Bennet, National Builder, April 1915, p. 39.
8. William Arthur Bennet, Carpentry and Building, February, 1913, p. 6 and 7.

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Specify repository:**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 16 428120 4608680  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 9 and 10 in Sedgewick, a subdivision of part of the west half of the northeast quarter of Section 9, Township 36 north, Range 12 east of the third principal meridian, in Cook County, Illinois.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

These are the lots on which the church was originally located.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Richard L. Hayes, Secretary

organization Old Orland Heritage Foundation date 4/12/88

street & number P. O. Box 743 telephone (312) 349-5400, ext. 322

city or town Orland Park state IL. zip code 60462

The following properties were also entered in the National Register but were excluded from a previous notice:

KEY: Property Name, Multiple Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL status

## ILLINOIS

### Cook County

#### Twin Tower Sanctuary

9967 W. 144th St.

Orland Park 11/16/88 88002235

## INDIANA

### Delaware County

#### City Hall

Downtown Muncie MRA

220 E. Jackson St.

Muncie 11/14/88 88002114

#### First Baptist Church

Downtown Muncie MRA

309 E. Adams St.

Muncie 11/14/88 88002125

#### Gilbert, Goldsmith C., Historic District

Downtown Muncie MRA

Roughly bounded by Wysor St., N. Madison St., E. Washington St., and Mulberry St.

Muncie 11/14/88 88002113

#### Goddard Warehouse

Downtown Muncie MRA

215 W. Seymour St.

Muncie 11/14/88 88002121

#### Hoover, Eli, House and Confectionary

Downtown Muncie MRA

316 W. Main St.

Muncie 11/14/88 88002128

#### Judson Building

Downtown Muncie MRA

300 W. Main St.

Muncie 11/14/88 88002127

#### Peacock Apartments

Downtown Muncie MRA

414 S. Jefferson St.

Muncie 11/14/88 88002119

#### Shirk, W. W., Building

Downtown Muncie MRA

219 E. Jackson St.

Muncie 11/14/88 88002116

## TENNESSEE

### Warren County

#### Philadelphia Church of Christ

Verville Rd.

Verville 11/17/88 88002537